



Visitor Waste Characterization Study for Big Bend National Park

Big Bend Conservancy

The outcome of this project will be to develop an efficient & coordinated approach/ implementation plan to optimize waste diversion in the park. This will help provide recommendations of consistent labeling, infrastructure, education & outreach within the park, and potentially surrounding areas. This project will also seek to provide additional guidance/ recommendations on zero-waste opportunities, specific recommendations to inform outreach & education programs for employees/ visitors, to increase participation & effectiveness of existing programs & to evaluate new or alternative methods for diverting food wastes & other organic materials in conjunction with an existing composting project.

Park: Big Bend National Park



Connecting Families to Biscayne and Everglades National Parks through Recreation

Florida National Parks Association

This program will increase public access to local national parks and will allow for a better understanding of the role backyard national parks play in their lives. Families will gain an understanding as to why protecting parks is important & will leave the program knowing where the parks are & how to get there. Families will learn specific types of recreation in their national parks; while they explore skills such as snorkeling, paddling, & fishing. Families will be encouraged to return to recreate with takeaways for the children including snorkel and fishing gear. Success will be measured by a follow-up call after the activity to ask about the family's experience & assess the likelihood they will return on their own.

Park: Biscayne and Everglades National Parks

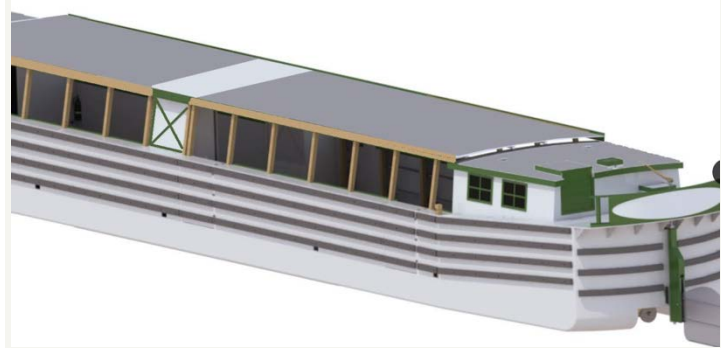


Resource Stewardship School Year Youth Engagement Program

Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC)

During this project, youth will help maintain 1000 linear feet of trails to improve visitor circulation, provide for visitor safety & protect historic fort structures, vegetative buffers & natural resource systems. Participants will also help remove 1500 cubic yards of non-native invasive vegetation to improve landscapes & enable visitors to better experience park views, and also help present projects, establish networks & develop skills that support future growth & development. This program will also forge meaningful & enduring relationships between youth & their public lands & enable public land managers to learn & benefit from youth perspectives.

Park: Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park



Preparing for the New C&O Canal Boat Program in Georgetown

Georgetown Heritage

Georgetown Heritage, a not-for-profit organization and an official Philanthropic Partner of C&O Canal NHP, is working with the National Park Service to preserve, restore, and revitalize the mile-long section of the park in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. The challenge cost share funds will enable the return of the canal boat in Georgetown by supporting more immersive and evocative educational and interpretive programs with a boat crew employing area youth. To accurately portray the canal boat experience, historical period clothing for the boat crew and educators, and material culture for the canal boat items will be purchased and used in the educational and interpretive programming.

Park: Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park

FY20 NPS Challenge Cost Share Projects



Scout Watershed STEM Education, Recreation, and Stewardship Programs and Educator Professional Development

Stroud Water Research Center, INC

This program will propose a series of hands-on, minds-on events to engage Scouts BSA, Girl Scouts, & educators in on-the-water STEM education, recreation & stewardship programs. These programs will feature exploration of local waterways by canoe or streamside, piquing curiosities about watershed ecology & the importance of these local waterways past & present. Stroud Center and First State NHP staff will co-create Scout program field notebooks that will include sections for data collection, multiple ways to express learning, & the last page will include summary reflective questions.

Park: First State National Historical Park



Recreational Opportunity and Equitable Access for At-Risk Children in Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Slide Ranch

This project will be based on providing equitable access to nature for 150 at-risk youth and 25 families from San Francisco, Oakland & Marin City, & inspire them to become stewards of parks and public lands. This is part of the GGNRA mission to bring parks to the people & diversify visitors to parks. This project will improve park accessibility & equity and results will be measured through a post-survey of all participants.

Park: Golden Gate National Recreation Area



Connecting students and educators to Great Basin National Park, Great Basin Observatory, and Dark Sky Preservation

Great Basin National Park Foundation

This program will include six Star Boxes that will be constructed and delivered to local elementary schools. This will also include multiple Star Box virtual training to educators completed, 10 new lesson plans created & made available to educators anywhere on the Great Basin Observatory web portal, 14 or more virtual classroom visits to local elementary, middle, & high schools. There will be 1 film created to promote Great Basin National Park, Great Basin Observatory, & dark sky preservation which will be shown at traveling planetarium presentations to students in Northern Nevada and Southern Utah area through partnerships with the SUU Aschcroft Planetarium & the UNR Fleischmann Planetarium.

Park: Great Basin National Park



Connecting Community to Public Lands

Ice Age Trail Alliance

This project will consist of constructing 200' of elevated boardwalk, a 500' clear span bridge and will enlist up to 200 volunteers throughout all projects involved. This project will also conduct 4 community presentations, build or improve 2,500 feet of native surface tread & install way-finding and educational signage which will help restore up to 2 miles of the trail stewardship zone.

Park: Ice Age National Scenic Trail



Parks Building Health and Wellness for Military and Veteran Families

Dunes Learning Center

The Dunes Discovery for Military Kids program will provide a classroom without walls for students to interact directly with nature in an environmental-STEM focused program, helping to create the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts & national park junior rangers. New skills offer outdoor experiences when their family is transferred from the Great Lakes region to their next assignment in the United States or around the world. The Weekend Family Camps program will introduce families to outdoor recreation, close-to-home. This will include introductory classes on hiking and camping, with secondary outcomes to promote the park, help build mental health resilience through spending time in nature & building healthy lifestyles through active recreation.

Park: Indiana Dunes National Park



Youth Programming in the Katahdin Region

Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters

The goal of this project in the '20/'21 school year is to increase the number from last year (2,000 youth participants) while also focusing on ensuring that students participating in programs take the next steps by volunteering in a place-based project, exploring another education program, or seeking related professional opportunities. For students who call the Katahdin Region home, the Baxter Youth Conservation Corps is an important step into the professional world; with a goal to partner with Friends of Baxter State Park to employ ten local youth and two trail crew leaders to improve accessibility to the Seboeis River and within the Seboeis parcel of Katahdin Woods and Waters. This project will craft a regional plan for place-based education that empowers stakeholders to effectively collaborate on shared community resources over the next five to ten years.

Park: Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument



Improving Awareness & Stewardship on the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River

Delaware Riverkeeper Network

This project will grow & diversify the community of informed river users who are inspired to take action to protect our Lower Delaware through first-hand experiences. The tours themselves will expand recreational access by providing free or nominal fee (\$5- \$10 registration) recreational opportunities led by Delaware River experts who will guide & interpret the experiences to heighten appreciation & nurture a commitment to protecting the river. The community scientist surveys will also launch the first long-term monitoring program for the Delaware River's freshwater mussels, documenting responses to water quality changes and the threats from climate change.

Park: Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River



Louisville is Engaging Children Outdoors (Louisville ECHO)

Wilderness Louisville

This project will provide 4 trips for local youth participants to Mammoth Cave National Park with partner schools as well as 6 virtual programs with Mammoth Cave. It will engage approximately 300 fourth-grade students from 4 local schools in outdoor programming, which will plant 120 trees at local parks in Jefferson County.

Park: Mammoth Cave National Park



Reviving Ancient Links from Meridian Hill to Rock Creek

Washington Park & People

This project will improve recreation opportunities, access, & infrastructure in & between Meridian Hill & Rock Creek Parks with a 5000-foot Community Heritage Walk to invite people to “Find Their Park”, marked by 12 fun & culturally relevant seasonal signs along existing trails, sidewalks, & streets on DC lands. It will also help protect & restore Meridian Hill & Rock Creek Park; including their trails, the creek, & their connections with the removal of over 300 bags of trash, debris, & invasives, & with the planting of at least 250 native perennials & native trees. As well as expanding public engagement in stewardship and support for both parks; with 9 major monthly community stewardship impact days, relevant media and programming, community walks infused with arts, heritage commemorations, social media posts, & copies of the new map & guide distributed.

Park: Rock Creek Park



2021 Rocky Mountain National Park Rehabilitation of Cub Lake Trail

TEENS, Inc

This program will support youth with 40 hours of labor each to gain recreation opportunities & access to the park. Youth participants will camp three nights in RMNP, provided over a third of participants with their first-time camping. The work TW completes will also improve opportunities for public use of the trail & increase stewardship via public engagement. By summer's end, TW youth will increase their knowledge of conservation practices & will understand the value of five core TW tenets (environmental stewardship, inclusion, leadership collaboration, healthy risk-taking, and professionalism).

Park: Rocky Mountain National Park

FY20 NPS Challenge Cost Share Projects



Urban Agenda Breaking Barriers

Groundwork Richmond

This project will include Richmond raised youth leaders that will become experts in their hometown national park. Richmond residents will be informed of NPS & on-the-water recreation opportunities. Coronado neighborhood residents will receive door-to-door invitations to RORI & will be informed of the Urban Agenda project, forthcoming trail construction & on-the-water opportunities within 1 mile of their homes. Local volunteers will participate in a waterfront clean-up as part of “Coastal Cleanup Day”, the largest international service day in the world which will feature social media posts highlighting the NPS and the #ChallengeCostShare. 175 new trees will be planted to shade the route to the National Park Outreach Tent will be available for all future NPS events and can be utilized at future Richmond Events as well as education pop-up posters will be utilized at future Richmond community events.

Park: Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park



Enhancing native species diversity, pollinator host-plants at Salinas Pueblo through the installation of Educational Gardens

Institute for Applied Ecology.

The outcome of the project is 2 educational gardens with engaging designs, visually appealing plantings, increased diversity of native species important to pollinators, & decreased nonnative species. The gardens will offer a demonstration of landscaping with drought-adapted native species that also attract pollinators & celebrate cultural practices of local tribes. Informative signage will be completed & installed where visitors can easily access information that will be directly tied to the garden restoration project, the native plants growing there, & pollinator visitors. Two Forest Bound workshops will be conducted, inviting local and/or visiting youth from other areas.

Park: Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument



Ensuring Youth Have Access to Nature and Culture: Coastal Ecosystems Service Learning in the Timucuan Preserve

Timucuan Parks Foundation

Service-learning volunteer projects & outreach will provide on-water education, recreation, & stewardship opportunities to a diverse population of youth who might not otherwise have access to their local national park site. The projects not only provide access & involve the youth in the exploration & physical restoration of shoreline areas but also help them understand why we need healthy waterways and salt marshes for both natural and cultural resources. More than 40 miles of land & water trails will be enhanced, maintained, & explored. Creative service projects & educational programming will lead to the completion of much-needed shoreline restoration. It will also provide the Timucuan Preserve visibility, new audiences & young stewards

Park: Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve and Fort



National Park Teen Ambassador Program Expansion

Voyageurs National Park Association

This project will host at least 35 high school students from underserved communities throughout MN on an immersive 5-day/4-night educational camping trip. Also, the park will host a minimum of 50 high school students for a one-day canoe program in the park. This new program element will allow the park to offer a new experience for regional high school students & develop new partnerships with local high schools. Students will have the opportunities to experience the park by water while learning about freshwater ecology, gaining exposure to recreation, science, and career pathways.

Park: Voyageurs National Park

FY20 NPS Challenge Cost Share Projects



¡Vamos a Yosemite!

Latino Outdoors

This project is designed to encourage community building with a place-based approach that focuses on self-empowerment by teaching participants how to replicate outdoor experiences on their own. This helps remove the real & perceived barriers between people & the environment, allowing underrepresented communities that have been traditionally excluded from the outdoors to access a plethora of wellness benefits provided by nature-based leisure & recreation. This project will also provide Latinx communities with increased opportunities to access public lands, other open spaces, and outdoor activities, as well as see themselves better represented in these areas. This will help shift the demographics of the conservation constituency to better reflect the country's demographics.

Park: Yosemite National Park